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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFF

In re Application of: M. Schwarzbauer et al.

Internat. Appl. No. PCT/EP2004/010254

Serial No.: to be assigned

Filing Date: to be assigned

r: Device for Singulating Overlapping

Flat Mailings

Art Unit: to be assigned

Examiner: to be assigned

Atty. Docket:2003P16152WOUS

Confirmation No.: to be assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

United States Patent & Trademark Office COMMISSIONER FOR PATENT P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Sir:

Prior to examination upon the merits, the following preliminary amendment is submitted in connection with the above identified patent application. Any amendments are with respect to the translation of the specification and claims of International Application PCT/EP2004/010254. The translation is submitted with the filing of the above identified patent application. It is respectfully requested that the present preliminary amendment to the specification and claims be entered and appropriately considered by the United States Patent Office.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including a new abstract on a separate page is attached following page 7 of this paper.